



City news,
features,
and
updates

This Week in Huntsville

May 13,
2015

City Welcomes New Deputy City Secretary Clasina Watson, TRMC

What a difference a month can make! On the 6th of April, Clasina Watson joined the City of Huntsville as its new Deputy City Secretary. Although she comes to the job with local government and municipal clerk experience, the first few days of any new job can be overwhelming, but Watson felt prepared.

"I am excited to be a part of the city of Huntsville and am ready for new challenges," said Watson. "I believe my past experience will allow for a smooth transition into my new position. I'm looking forward to working with the City Secretary, along with the Mayor, City Council, City Manager, and the city staff."

Former Deputy City Secretary Kristin Edwards took a public relations/tourism position with the City of Deer Park in January, so the City has been without this key position for several months. City Secretary Lee Woodward is thrilled to have Watson on staff.

"Kristin has moved on to a position better fitting her passion and skill in communications, and we are excited that Clasina was willing to come back to a municipal setting," said Woodward. "She is very knowledgeable, and also fits Huntsville's tradition of providing a "warm welcome" to citizens, staff, and visitors to City Hall."

As the Deputy City Secretary, Watson will work with the City Secretary as they provide City Council support; ensure proper elections procedures; process Public Information Requests; create and disseminate publications, media communications, and social media content; oversee record retention, preservation, and destruction; liaise with City boards and commissions; issue liquor licenses and permits; participate in the City's emergency management team; and continue their professional development.

Watson received her certification as a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk in January 2013. She will continue her required education for re-certification over the next two and a half years.

Watson began her career in city government at the City of Lufkin in 1991, as a volunteer in the Code Enforcement Department. After six months, a position opened and she was promoted to Office Assistant and later became the first female Code Enforcement Officer at the City of Lufkin. Additionally, she has worked at the City of Nacogdoches as an Office Assistant to the Public Works Director and then at the City of Oak Ridge North as City Secretary, Assistant City Secretary, Water Utility Billing Clerk, and in the Water Utility Department, Permit Department, and Accounting Department.

Most recently, Watson served the Westwood North Water Supply Corporation as the Office Administrator.



"Settling in quickly in city government is sometimes not automatic, but everyone I have had the pleasure of meeting here has made me feel right at home," said Watson.

"Clasina is by far the sweetest, most charismatic individual I've ever met," notes City Secretary intern Jasmine Moss. "Her first day seemed like a first year in terms of new things being thrown at her, but she was not only outgoing, welcoming, and confident, she also took on these new challenges without hesitation. I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with such an amazing woman."

Watson has two children, daughter Kristie Watson, who works in the medical field and resides in The Woodlands, and son Dean Watson, who is in his 16th year serving in the United States Army and is currently stationed in Killeen with his wife Shelly. Watson currently resides in the Conroe/Woodlands area, but is very excited about moving to Huntsville. "The hospitality I have seen throughout the city has been amazing," she said. "I had thought that a true hometown, country feel was a thing of the past, until now!"

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Downtown Huntsville

FARMERS

MARKET



Saturdays 8am - Noon
Starting May 9th



Fresh Produce

tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, green beans, bok choy,
cabbage, preserves, spices, honey, yard eggs, herbs

PLUS

metal art, leather & wood working goods, dog cookies,
natural bath & beauty products, handmade jewelry

University Avenue East side of the Courthouse Square

facebook.com/COHmainstreet

May 2015 Huntsville Public Library Events

Regular events

Story time is a fun and exciting time every Wednesday morning at 10:45 a.m. Each week we read stories, sing songs and make a craft that follows the theme of the week. Upcoming themes include Space on May 20 and Ocean on May 27.

Delightful Doodlers is an informal craft time for preschoolers every Monday at 11:00 a.m. Take some time out, let the children make a super cute craft, and then stay a little bit and play with friends. The next Delightful Doodlers date is May 18th.

Krafty Kids is a lively and enjoyable craft time for elementary students. We meet every Friday at 4:00 p.m. in the Children's Room. Join us on May 15th, May 22nd, and May 29th.

The June **Family Movie Night** will be held on Friday, June 12, at 5:30 p.m. The movie night is sponsored by Texas Children's Health Plan. All movies are rated G or PG. Complimentary popcorn and drinks are served at all movies. For more information call the library at 291-5472.

Read With The Dogs is an excellent program that helps children who experience anxiety when reading out loud or in a group setting. The dogs are trained and friendly and make excellent reading companions. Read With The Dogs takes place on the third Monday of every month and registration is required. This month's READ is Monday, May 18th from 4:00-5:30. For more information contact Children's Coordinator, Kristi Glasgow at 291-5910.

The Huntsville Public Library's **Lego Club** is held the third Tuesday of every month. This month's club meeting is Tuesday, May 19, at 5:00 p.m. The Lego Club meets for approximately 45 minutes and is for ages 5-12. We have icebreaker activities, group work, and show and tell time, and the library provides all materials. At this time registration is not required but highly recommended. For more information, contact Children's Coordinator, Kristi Glasgow at 291-5910.

The Teen Department will host a **Teen 3-D Art Activity** on Thursday, May 28 at 4:30 p.m. For more information about this activity please contact Ashley Newsome at 291-5472.

Family Story Time is the fourth Thursday of every month. We will have a couple of stories, a bedtime snack, and a craft. This month's Family Story Time is Thursday, May 28 at 6:00 p.m. Children are encouraged to wear pajamas and bring a pillow.

Mark your calendars! Summer Events Coming Soon!

Teen Computer Classes will be held every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from June 9-July 16 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Summer Reading Program, 'Every Hero Has a Story' - sign up on Saturday, June 13 at 12:30 p.m.- for ages 0-13

Superhero Craft Activity, Tuesday, June 23rd 3:30, Tuesday, July 7th 3:30, Friday, July 24th 3:30

Read for Chocolate - Summer Reading Program for those aged 14-114 begins Monday, June 15th

Texas Mime Program with Mitch Corley, Tuesday, June 16 at 10:30 a.m. - All ages are welcome.

The Huntsville Public Library Children's Department would like to thank all of their sponsors for the 2015 Summer Reading Program donations. If you would like to donate prizes for the program, please contact Children's Coordinator, Kristi Glasgow at 291-5910.

Intern at the City!

Title: City Secretary Intern

Time employed with City of Huntsville: Three and a half months

Education: Sophomore - Sam Houston State University - Bachelor of Science in Political Science, Minor in Accounting

Job description: During her internship, Jasmine was responsible for a contracts organization project, including training and use of the City's Laserfiche digitization software, an ongoing process to ensure documents are easily accessible and kept for the appropriate retention period. She also trained in other aspects of the City Secretary's office, such as handling Public Information Requests, proper document storage in the City's Records Room, creating the City's publications, working with citizens and Councilmembers, preparing the Council chamber for City Council meetings, and posting city events and agendas to web and social media.

Certifications/Memberships/Activities: Jasmine has been an active member of Sam Houston State University Kats In Support of Shelters (K.I.S.S) for two years. In the organization, she has been selected as Rookie of the Year (2013-14), Secretary (Fall 2014), and Vice President (Spring 2015).



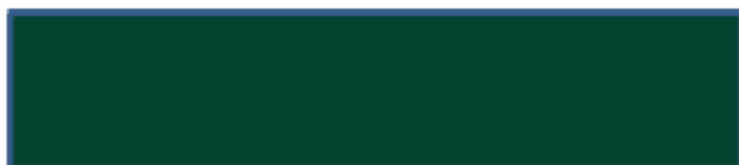
Jasmine
Moss

Spring 2015
City Secretary
Intern

Colleague perspectives: "Jasmine is amazing! She is very excited to learn about city government. Not only is she attentive to her duties, but is constantly asking other employees if she can help them. Jasmine has the skills and mind-set to go a long way in a career. We are very glad to have had her on board and we will be sad to see her go." - Clasina Watson, Deputy City Secretary

Feel the STING!

Get a Flag!



Citizens across the community are stepping up to share the good news in our school district, and demonstrate their support for our kids, teachers, and administrative staff. You can join them by donating for Hornet Pride flags flown around the Square and downtown (to assist with flags, poles, and supplies), or by purchasing flags to fly at home or your business on football game days, or any time! It's a simple way to stand together and let the Hornets know we're all pulling for them!



I'm going to help fill the downtown with Hornet Spirit! \$35 or more _____

I want to join the Swarm at home & work with extra flags! \$25 X _____

(For each \$25 flag, note whether you need side pocket or grommets, please!)

Total: \$ _____

Donated by: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email address: _____

If you prefer to donate by mail, please send to:

Hornet Flag Project
c/o Chamber of Commerce
Post Office Box 538
Huntsville, TX 77342

For information or to pay by credit card: 936-291-8113





City of Huntsville, Texas

**15-month calendar
October 2014 to
December 2015**

Photo Call!

Here at the City, we hope you have one of the 2014-2015 City calendars and are enjoying it! However, it's now time to think about the 2015-2016 calendar, and we'd love your help with it. Please submit photos taken in City parks, at City events, or of groups working with the City on occasions such as All Paws In or the Spring Clean—anything City-related.



Maybe you attended the Fourth of July celebration or E-Recycling Day, or took the kids to an Outdoor Explorer class and have a great picture. Or perhaps your group received a proclamation or made a donation or participated in Local Government Day. We'd love to see your photos and consider them for the next calendar. The City of Huntsville is asking all residents, business owners and organizations to submit their best photos for use in the calendar, on our Facebook and Twitter accounts, in our digital newsletter, and maybe even for upcoming special projects.

Please submit their original photography along with the name of the photographer for photo credit. The City requests participants send the highest resolution copies available, and that only material suitable for viewing by all ages be submitted.

Digital photos smaller than 20 MB may be emailed to lwoodward@huntsvilletx.gov (please make contact with us before trying to send larger files, either at the email address or by calling 936-291-5403). The City requests any hard copies be brought to City Hall, located at 1212 Avenue M. If necessary, hard copies will be scanned and returned to the provider. For more information, contact Woodward at (936) 291-5403.

LINEAGE SOCIETY WORKSHOP



Who Could Be in Your Family Tree?... Have you ever wondered if your ancestors fought alongside George Washington in the American Revolutionary War, or maybe even sold provisions to the Continental Army? Perhaps they were passengers on the Mayflower. Want to prove it? Then a lineage society is for you. And while a lineage society is a way to take pride in an ancestor's accomplishments, it's also a great way to test your research skills and learn more about certain lines in your family history.

The Mary Martin Elmore Scott Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Huntsville Public Library are hosting their annual Lineage Society Workshop Thursday, June 11, 2015, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the Huntsville Public Library, located at 1219 13th Street. The workshop will offer assistance in preparation of lineage applications to any patriotic or lineage society (for women and/or men). Be sure to put it on your calendar!

"Anyone interested in joining a lineage society is invited to participate," said Mary Kokot, Huntsville Public Library Adult Services Coordinator. "Bring any genealogical & family materials you have, such as birth, death, and marriage certificates, bible records, land records, etc. If in doubt, bring it along. Help will be available to assist in preparing your lineage papers, and worksheets and handouts will be furnished."

The workshop is taught by Johnnie Jo Sowell Dickenson, a local professional genealogist who has helped many with history and lineage society applications.

Lunch break (on your own): 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Register at: www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com

(Registration is required to receive handouts and worksheets)

Contact: Mary Kokot at 936-291-5471 or the Huntsville Public Library at 936-291-5472 - This is a free event!



City will be closed for Memorial Day

City facilities will be closed May 25



Winter is gone, spring is passing us by, and summer is upon us with thoughts of sandy beaches and sunshine. Folks from across the nation will be traveling the highways for a fun-filled holiday. If you are planning to be on the road, please keep in mind some of the following tips to ensure your trip will be a safe and happy one. Have a wonderful Memorial Day!

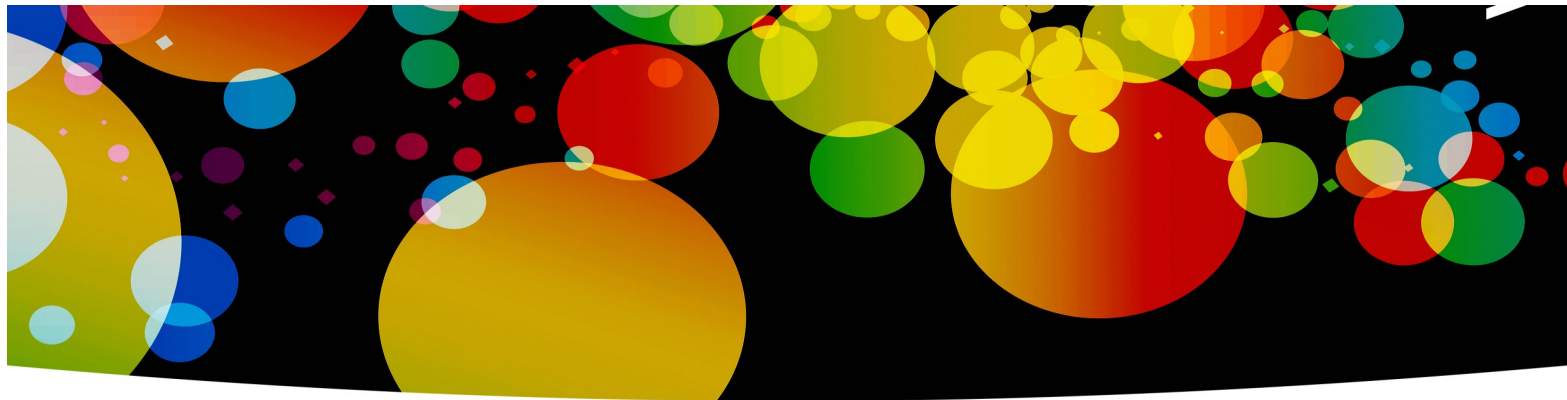
THE AMERICAN RED CROSS' FIVE STEPS TO HIGHWAY SAFETY

1. Don't follow another vehicle too closely.
2. Pay attention – avoid distractions such as cell phones.
3. Turn the headlights on as dusk approaches or in bad weather. Don't overdrive your headlights.
4. Make frequent stops. During long trips, rotate drivers. If you're too tired to drive, stop and get some rest.
5. If you have car trouble, pull off the road as far as possible.

TRAVEL PREPAREDNESS TIPS: Travel and weather web sites can help you avoid storms and other regional challenges that could impact your safety.

Other things you should do to prepare for your trip include:

1. Don't let your vehicle's gas tank get too low.
2. Carry a Disaster Supply kit in your trunk.
3. Let someone know your destination, your route, and when you expect to arrive. If your car gets stuck along the way, help can be sent along your predetermined route.
4. Pay attention to the weather forecast for your destination and find out what disasters could occur there.
5. Download the Red Cross apps to have important information on hand for different types of weather disasters and how to handle first aid emergencies.



FIRST THURSDAYS

**Downtown businesses will be
open until 7pm OR LATER!**

**Come out and support your
local Huntsville businesses!**

OPEN LATE



COME ON IN



**facebook.com/COHmainstreet
For more details**

Recreation Services Activities



Water Aerobics

Join the City of Huntsville at the Huntsville Frank D. "Poncho" Roberts Aquatic Center for the return of Water Aerobics. Classes will be Monday through Wednesday mornings from 8-9 a.m., and Monday through Thursday evenings from 8-9 p.m. Participants must be 18 years or older and are required to complete a registration form and pay a fee of \$55.00 for the year or purchase a day pass for \$4.

Registration is available at the City of Huntsville Service Center and before class at the Huntsville Aquatic Center. For more information, call 936-294-5725 or visit the website at http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/departments/community_services/recreation.htm.

Outdoor Explorer

Join the City's Recreation Service Division at the Huntsville State Park as they partner with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to learn basic safety for biking, hiking, and kayaking. Enjoy the rest of the day exploring the State Park with backpacks, bikes, and kayaks provided for use. Class size is limited to twenty participants and pre-registration is **required**. Classes are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Youth ages twelve and up can register with an attending parent or guardian.

Upcoming program dates are May 30th, June 20th, July 18th, August 15th, and September 19th. There is no charge for the program but there is a \$5 admission fee into the park for each participating adult (no cost for those 12 and under). For more information call 936-294-5725 or visit the website at <http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/category/subcategory.php?categoryid=12> or the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/COHrecservices>.



"Remember When - Stars & Stripes Forever"

The Huntsville Public Library is pleased to present Mary Anne Burkhalter in "Remember When - Stars & Stripes Forever" on Tuesday, May 19, from 2 to 3 p.m., in the Community Room. The show is free and requires no registration.

Take a rousing sing-along tour through American history, perfect for the upcoming Memorial Day holiday. Iconic songwriters such as "Yankee Doodle Dandy" George M. Cohan, Irving Berlin, and others are going to get you cheering. By the end, you'll be standing up true for the Red, White, and Blue!

Mary Anne Burkhalter was raised in Houston, where her first role was playing Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* at the Alley Theatre. She has since performed from coast to coast and overseas, and is currently writing and performing more than a dozen musical shows.

The Huntsville Public Library is located at 1219 13th Street. Contact Mary Kokot at 936-291-5471 for more information.

The City of Huntsville Solid Waste and Recycling Division is working hard to ensure that residents who wish to recycle using the single-stream curbside recycling program do so responsibly.



Putting any type of film plastic (which includes items like grocery bags, garbage bags, cling wrap, and zip lock bags) in the recycling bin increases recycling costs. These items can become stuck in the machines that sort the recycling. Unfortunately, not all items with a recycling logo on it are appropriate for single-stream recycling. Place film plastics in your green cart, or take grocery bags back to the grocery store for recycling. Do not place recycling in a plastic bag. Recycling needs to be placed loose in your blue recycling cart.



For more information about the single-stream recycling process, please visit

<http://bit.ly/1yUjgn0>

to watch a five-minute video that explains the single-stream process and the importance of removing plastic bags from your recycling bin.

Thank you for making the program a success!